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**AEC**

Australian Electoral Commission



AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
**MINISTERIAL BRIEF**

Special Minister of State

30 January 2013

**AEC: 2013 Election Timetable**

**Timing:** Routine

**Recommendation:**

That you **note** the contents of this Brief.

**Key Points:**

The Prime Minister has announced today that an election for the House of Representatives and half of the Senate will be held on Saturday, 14 September 2013. The Prime Minister has further announced that the House of Representatives will be dissolved on Monday, 12 August 2013 and writs issued on the same day.

2. The announcement of an election is the trigger for certain processes to commence. For example, electors who will be away from home on 14 September are able to apply now for a postal vote.

**Impact on the Budget:**

3. The AEC will seek a meeting with Department of Finance officers to discuss funding implications. Currently the bulk of funding for election delivery is included in the 2013-14 budget, however the announcement of the date means that some actions can now be completed in the current financial year. The AEC is keen to pursue this option to the extent possible.

**Current funding:**

4. There is no funding in the 2012-13 budget for election delivery activities.

**Background:**

5. The Commonwealth Electoral Act sets various milestones in an election timetable. The Prime Minister's announcement of two key dates in the election timetable, being the date of the issue of writ and the date of polling day, creates a minimum timeframe election period which allows other dates to be determined with certainty.

6. On the basis of the writ being issued by the Governor-General, as indicated by the Prime Minister, on 12 August, and the election date being 14 September, the 2013 election timetable will be:

Issue of writ	Monday, 12 August 2013
Close of rolls	8:00 pm, Monday, 19 August 2013
Close of nominations	12 midday, Thursday, 22 August 2013
Declaration of nominations	12 midday, Friday, 23 August 2013
Early voting commencement*	Monday, 26 August 2013
Mobile polling commencement	Monday, 2 September 2013
Polling day	Saturday, 14 September 2013
Last day for receipt of postal votes	Friday, 27 September 2013
Last day for the return of the writ	Wednesday, 20 November 2013

\* note that this date will change to Tuesday, 27 August if the *Improving Electoral Administration Bill* is passed by the Parliament and is effect for the election.

**Consultation:**

7. N/A.

[Signature redacted]

Ed Killesteyn  
Electoral Commissioner

*Minister*

*There are a range of other implications we are working through which will be the subject of further briefings to you soon eg proposed legislation, implications for any potential expenditure etc.*

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[Signature redacted] - 4/12/13  
**GARY GRAY**